

**Proverbs 3:1-6** My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; <sup>2</sup> For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you. <sup>3</sup> Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. <sup>4</sup> So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man. <sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. <sup>6</sup> In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

“Do not lean” is a caution: some things may look stable, but they will betray us if we put our trust in them.

**Railings, barriers at national parks and zoos, elevator doors, train doors**

“Trust in the Lord” is an encouragement: God may be invisible, but when you lean the whole weight of your trust on Him, He will be a strong support to you.

**2 Corinthians 5:7** <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight—

The only right way for a Christian to live in this world is to actively choose to see the unseen and refuse to be bound by the material world.

How many of us have a faith that is failing because we are reasoning away precious moments with God?

**Perhaps we can all learn a lesson from the tragic death of Gary Hoy...**

When reason is the frame that holds our faith, faith often gives way to a life of common sense and rationalism.

When faith is the frame that holds our reason, faith holds fast! Reason enriches our minds, deepens our faith, and both are preserved!

How can we learn to reason by faith?

**Proverbs 9:10** <sup>10</sup> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

First, we settle this forever: that God is true and that all truth is in God. If we have Him, we have all we will ever need.

**Psalms 119:128** <sup>128</sup> Therefore I esteem right all *Your* precepts concerning everything, I hate every false way.

If God is always true, and all truth is in God, then any truth I could possibly wish to understand can only be found in its fulness if I seek Him.

**There are no limitations on this...**

**Exodus 35:30-33** <sup>30</sup> Then Moses said to the sons of Israel, “See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah. <sup>31</sup> And He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all craftsmanship; <sup>32</sup> to make designs for working in gold and in silver and in bronze, <sup>33</sup> and in the cutting of stones for settings and in the carving of wood, so as to perform in every inventive work.

In general how are Christians today regarded when it comes to inventive work? Imagine God’s dismay that we do not access His creative wisdom and power in all the things we undertake to do!

**Ephesians 4:17-24** <sup>17</sup> So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, <sup>18</sup> being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; <sup>19</sup> and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness. <sup>20</sup> But you did not learn Christ in this way, <sup>21</sup> if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, <sup>22</sup> that, in reference to

your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,<sup>23</sup> and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,<sup>24</sup> and put on the new self, which in *the likeness of God* has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

**Hebrews 11:1-3** Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.<sup>2</sup> For by it the men of old gained approval.<sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.

By faith we understand! Faith opens our understanding so that reason (with spiritual insight) can lead us to right conclusions and new discoveries!

**Hebrews 11:17-21**<sup>17</sup> By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was offering up his only begotten *son*; <sup>18</sup> *it was he* to whom it was said, "In Isaac your descendants shall be called."<sup>19</sup> He considered that God is able to raise *people* even from the dead, from which he also received him back as a type.

Your test and mine is coming. Will my reason be submitted to faith like Abraham's was?

<sup>20</sup> By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau, even regarding things to come.<sup>21</sup> By faith Jacob, as he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, *leaning* on the top of his staff.

"Jacob wresting only failed. Jacob clinging soon prevailed!" Cameron Thompson, *Master Secrets of Prayer*

1993 Toronto Canada

Law Firm of Holden Day Wilson was inducting new class of Law Students on the 24<sup>th</sup> floor

38-year-old Gary Hoy had a favorite demonstration to drive home the inflexible nature and reliability of the Law to the new students. He had done it many times before. In a small conference room next to the training room, Gary set out to prove the unbreakable nature of the glass in the windows. He would hurl a projectile at the window with tremendous force to prove his point- and that projectile was Gary himself.

Hoy believed in the strength and tenacity of the windows- and he was not wrong. He had done it many times before. But this time, there was a variable he could not have foreseen. As he hurled himself at the glass, the window frame gave way - not the glass itself - and the corporate and securities law specialist fell 23 stories to his death on the sidewalks below in the busy financial district in Toronto.